

Submitter: Julie Swenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1589

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support SB1589.

Erosion, turbidity above allowed standards, boats and kayaks under 5000 pounds having difficulty navigating the large wakes produced by wakeboats.

These are undeniable facts.

One point of misinformation that seems to be mentioned frequently is that this Bill would ban certain boats in the Newberg Pool.

The purpose of the Bill is to ban ONLY CERTAIN ACTIVITIES of boats over 5000 pounds.

These heavy boats can still go out on the river, but not engage in the towed sports that create the biggest waves. Families can still go out and enjoy the river on a hot summer day.

Some have suggested that people will have to sell their heavy boats and move away. More likely, if they want to engage in towed sports in the Newberg Pool, they will sell their boat (probably at the same price they bought it for, since used boat prices are at an all time high) and purchase a boat made by the same manufacturer that can hold the same number of people, but doesn't have the 2 ton ballast tanks installed that puts them over the 5000 pounds. They then can resume the exact same activities.

To suggest that people will move or that the economy will be impacted is silliness.

All bodies of water are unique and require unique solutions to observed problems.

The Newberg Pool isn't wide enough to allow for the dissipation of the waves created during wakesport activities by boats designed to create the biggest waves. It isn't unusual for different bodies of water to have different regulations.

With much freedom comes much responsibility. Let's protect the Newberg Pool for generations to come.